competitive pricing & powers for marketing both in the domestic and international markets, to enable the PUs to function even more efficiently.

ROB/RUB in Punjab

5219. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of rail under/over bridges in Punjab as on date;

(b) the number of rail under/over bridges which are under construction;

(c) whether there is any proposal with Government to construct more rail over/under bridges in the State;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) 46

(b) 12

(c) Yes, Sir. 20 new works of road over/under bridges have been sanctioned during Works Programme of 2003-04 on cost sharing basis.

(d) and (e) Railways undertake construction of Road over/under bridges in lieu of existing level crossings on cost sharing basis, if traffic density at the level crossing is one lakh or more Train Vehicle Units (TVU – a unit obtained by multiplying the number of Trains with the number of road vehicles passing over the level crossing in 24 hours) otherwise on deposit terms. Proposals in both cases have to be sponsored by State Govt. fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules. State Govt. has been furnished with a list of such level crossings which have the traffic density of one lakh and more TVUs and requested to sponsor proposals for over/under bridges in lieu thereof.

Detection of missing Rail clips

† 5220. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) steps taken by Government to avert the accidents due to the increase in the incidents of missing/removing of Rail-clips, fishplates,

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of clips fixed on rail tracks had been found missing on 22nd February, 2003 in the Sultan Puri area of North West Delhi; and

(c) if so, names of the persons found responsible for the incident ?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Various steps taken are as under :—

(i) Use of more and more welded rails leading to reduction in number of fish plated joints.

(ii) The design has been finalized for trial for anti theft fish bolts and Elastic Rail Clip.

(iii) Burring of two fish bolts at joints, one on each rail, on the vulnerable sections.

(b) Yes, Sir. 32 Nos. Elastic Rail C ps were found missing at Km. 15/11-12 on up line between Shakurbasti and Nang oi stations. This was noticed by Railway keyman during his daily inspection.

(c) FIR No 3/2003 has been lodged on 22-2-03 with Government Railway Police/Delhi Kishanganj who are investigating the matter.

Shortage of wagons for wheat export

5221. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of wheat had been hampered during the last few months due to shortage of rail wagons;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of wagons demanded by wheat exporting agencies during October - December 2002;

(d) the number of wagons supplied by railways, during the said period for export of wheat; and

(e) the measures taken by Railways to supply adequate number of wagons for wheat export ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Concession against vacant seat to senior citizens

† 5222. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a senior citizen travelling on ordinary ticket in the train does not avail himself of the thirty per cent of concession in case of getting reservation against vacant seat;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.